

I CLAIM:

1. A driverless direct-printing method implementable between a client computer and a selectable direct-printing-enabled printer which is operatively connected to the computer, said method comprising

5 utilizing the client computer, discovering, with respect to such printer, the actual, current printing capabilities thereof, and the related printing settings associated therewith, required for client-computer invocation of those capabilities and settings, and

at a point in time following that discovering, and on the occurrence of a request to the client computer for the undertaking of a direct-printing print job regarding a selected  
10 job document having an associated native format, appropriately dynamically configuring the client computer to generate, prepare and communicate that job document, in its native format, for direct printing by that printer utilizing the discovered actual current printing capabilities and related, associated settings for that printer.

2. A driverless method implementable by a client computer in an associated network to enable client-invoked direct printing of a print-job document in its native format by a selected one of accessible direct-printing-enabled printers comprising

initiating, from the client computer, a printer-information discovery process to  
5 ascertain (a) the identities of any such network-connected printers, and (b) the actual, specific, current performance capabilities and related operational settings, of the respective, so-identified printers,

following said initiating and ascertaining, creating an identified-printer database containing the respective ascertained capabilities and settings, and

10 on the basis of a request being placed with the client computer for the implementation of a direct-printing job regarding a selected job document which has an associated native format, and utilizing printer-specific information regarding capabilities and settings contained in the created database, dynamically configuring, generating and communicating that job document, in its native format, for direct printing by a selected  
15 one of the identified printers.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said configuring, generating and communicating are collectively enabled/accomplished (1) by the pre-constructing, for use in and by the client computer, of a collection of available, dynamically configurable, inter-relatable, direct-printing-associated functional modules including (a) a printer  
5 discovery module, (b) a print menu selection module, (c) a job control generation module, (d) a print job construction module, and (e) a scheduling/spooling/despooling module, and (2) by then dynamically configuring and employing these modules, as appropriate, and in relation to information contained in the created database, to effect the carrying out of the requested direct-printing job.